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ADVANCE PRESS RELEASE: DO NOT DISTRIBUTE UNTIL 9 JANUARY, 2018

New Report Warns of Profound Impacts on U.S. Capabilities for Environmental and Climate Research

January 9, 2018

The current administration's FY 2018 budget proposes significant reductions to many climate and environment research and development (CE R&D) programs, cautions a report released today by a group of science and policy leaders who have served in Republican and Democratic administrations. As Congress deliberates the 2018 appropriations, the report, "**Warning Signs: Effects of Proposed Federal Funding Cuts to Environmental and Climate Research and Development Programs**," informs policymakers and the broader community of impacts to the nation's economic, societal, and environmental security and leadership should these cuts become a reality.

The budget proposes \$7.8 billion for federally funded CE R&D—a roughly \$2 billion (21 percent) drop between FY 2017 and 2018—with significant reductions to most of the thirteen agencies in the climate and environment portfolio. If the proposed cuts become law, they will have profound impacts on U.S. capabilities, including dismantling programs that provide the scientific basis for policies that protect Americans' health, economic prosperity, and safety; breaking the chain of longstanding observational and research infrastructure needed for climate and environment modeling; constraining the nation's ability to detect and understand critical climate and environmental trends and influences on natural resources; curbing the training of the next generation of scientists, resource managers, and decision-makers who translate basic science into climate and environmental policies and approaches; degrading the U.S. Global Change Research program; and restricting the nation's ability to meet legal and international climate and environment commitments. The report includes a summary of the proposed FY 2018 reductions and a detailed agency-by-agency analysis.

Although Congress has signaled a reluctance to go along with many of the proposed cuts, the report discusses potential outcomes should some of them be enacted. The report also notes that the administration's 2019 budget is likely to contain further cuts, similar to those proposed for 2018. As such, reductions to climate and environment-related R&D programs are likely to continue.

Novim, a nonprofit scientific research organization committed to its role as an independent, non-advocacy source of data, providing clear options to the most urgent problems facing humanity, conducted the study and is releasing this report.

For a copy of the complete report, please visit: <https://www.novim.org/projects/budget/>

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